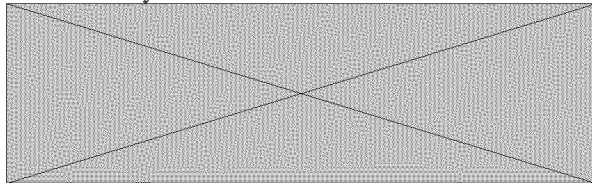


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From: Smith - CDPHE, Warren
Sent: Thur 8/6/2015 8:06:32 PM
Subject: HMWMD media contact

Gold King Release: Warren Smith spoke briefly with a reporter from the Durango Herald, referring her to Rich Mylott of the EPA. There seems to be a lot of confusion about EPA's use of the term "unconsolidated debris" in relation to the blowout at the Gold King Mine, so Smith explained on background that when old mines intersect groundwater, they become flooded and the water mobilizes heavy metals. Rocks and debris falling from the ceiling and walls of the mine can form a "dam" that releases large volumes of contaminated water if it gives way.

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